

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a landscape. It shows a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the sky. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills covered with sparse vegetation. The sky is bright and slightly hazy. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and blues, with a soft, naturalistic feel.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **New Melones Lake**

### **Spring Interpretive Calendar**

**March - May 2010**

## **Featuring . . .**

**Spring Hikes**

**Evening Programs**

**Special Programs**

# Spring Calendar at a Glance

## March

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## May

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On May 29, we will start off our campground programs with Ranger Hilary's *Dangerous Creatures*. Check our website in mid May for the full schedule of summer campground programs!

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If you would like to participate in any of these events and need special accommodations, please contact Park Ranger Tracy Neal at least 14 days in advance at 209-536-9094, extension 215 (TTY 800-877-8339) or e-mail [tneal@usbr.gov](mailto:tneal@usbr.gov).

## Ranger-Led Hikes

Join a Park Ranger on one of our many assorted hikes this Spring to explore the diversity of nature and history around New Melones Lake. Bring plenty of water and clothing appropriate for the weather. All hikes are weather permitting. These hikes are free of charge and no reservations are necessary. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information or directions, call or stop by the New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum. Operating hours and contact information are available on page 10.

## New Melones Hikes Overview

### Angels Creek / Buck Brush

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.

### Dam Overlook and Peoria Basin

Sunday, May 30, 10:00 a.m.

### Natural Bridges

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.

### Table Mountain

Saturday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.

### New Tuttletown Trail

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 a.m.



Ranger-Led hikes are always fun and informative!

## Trails of Discovery and Recovery

Experience first hand how some of American Recovery and Reinvestment and (ARRA) dollars are being utilized at New Melones Lake. Join Ranger Emerald for an exciting walk along one of our new trails in Tuttletown. Learn about the ARRA improvement projects, the new trails being built, and what you can do to help keep them in good condition for generations to follow.

This is a family-friendly hike, about 1 to 2 miles, easy, with a few short steep areas. Meet at the Tuttletown Entrance Station at 9:00 a.m. Participants will receive a parking pass for the duration of the event.



### **New Tuttletown Trail**

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 a.m.

## The Flora of Natural Bridges

Hike along with Ranger Hilary to discover the diverse plant communities along the Natural Bridges Trail. Learn how to identify the floral communities of Natural Bridges.

This is a moderate to strenuous downhill hike, 1.5 miles roundtrip. Participants may return uphill on their own. Meet at the Natural Bridges trailhead on Parrott's Ferry Road. Just a reminder, no dogs are allowed on the trail to Natural Bridges.



### **Natural Bridges Hike**

Saturday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.

## Ranger's Choice

Come join Ranger Cindy for an exciting walk along the Buck Brush Trail. A fun and educational morning awaits you. Enjoy the walk and learn a little more about the diversity of New Melones Lake.

This is an easy family-friendly hike, about 1 mile, with a few short steep areas. Meet at the Glory Hole Entrance Station at 9:00 a.m. Participants will receive a parking pass for the duration of the event. We will caravan down to the trailhead parking.



### **Buck Brush Trail**

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

## Ranger's Choice

Come join Ranger Cindy for an exciting walk to the New Melones Dam overlook. A fun and educational morning awaits you. Enjoy the walk and learn a little more about New Melones Lake.

This is a moderate-to-strenuous hike, 3 miles roundtrip, with a steady 1/2 mile climb to the overlook. Meet at the Peoria Wildlife Equestrian Staging Area on Peoria Flat Road at 10:00 a.m. Alternatively, participants are welcome to meet the ranger at the New Melones Lake

Visitor Center and Museum at 9:00 a.m. and follow the caravan. We will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m., so please don't be late!



### **Dam Overlook and Peoria Basin**

Sunday, May 30, 10:00 a.m.

## Spring Speaker Series

Come join us this spring as we continue our Thursday Evening Speaker Series. Returning are Ranger Hilary's *Invasive Species* from last fall and Kurt Stegen's *The Struggle for the Stanislaus* from last spring.

All speaker presentations are held Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum, located at 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora, CA 95370. Please join us!

For more information or directions, call or stop by the New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum. Operating hours and contact information are available on page 10.

These programs are free of charge and no reservations are necessary. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Tour of the Night Sky

### Thursday, March 18, at dusk

Local amateur astronomer Denise Combs and friends will present spring constellations, sky movements, and other deep sky objects - perhaps we'll see distant galaxies, nebulae, or global clusters! Join us and watch the moon set, allowing dark skies for optimal viewing! Meet at dusk in the New Melones Lake Visitor Center & Museum parking lot. Please wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight. This event is subject to weather and viewing conditions permitting.





# Invasive Species

**Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.**

Invasive species are classified as any plant or animal that is not native to an area and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, and/or harm to human health. Invasive species often “out-compete” native species, causing an imbalance in the native ecosystem. In extreme cases, recreation managers may choose to close certain recreation areas or entire facilities in an effort to restore

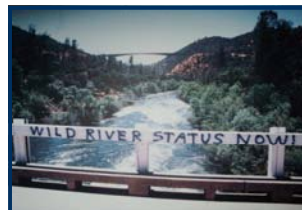


native habitat. Join Ranger Hilary for an up-close look at the potential threats facing New Melones Lake, including quagga and zebra mussels. Learn how these invasive species travel from one area to the next and what you can do to help keep them from spreading.

# The Struggle for the Stanislaus

**Thursday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.**

Join Kurt Stegen as he presents both sides of the struggle, those who wanted the Stanislaus to remain wild and scenic versus the crucial need for more water to support California’s growing economy. Watch the historic video, Parrotts Ferry is the Limit, and a slide show of historical photos that document the struggle from the early beginnings to the dedication of New Melones Dam in July 1979.



## Special Programs

These programs feature both a formal presentation on Thursday evening and an informal fun activity the following Saturday morning. Join Ranger Hilary as we explore the diversity of nature around New Melones Lake.

For the speaker presentations, meet at the New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum at 7:00 p.m. For more information, see page 10 for the phone number and operating hours.

For the activities, don't forget to wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Also bring plenty of water and snacks.

These programs are free of charge and no reservations are necessary. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Mushrooms of the Mother Lode

**Presentation: Thursday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.**

**Activity: Saturday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.**

Join Park Ranger Hilary in discovering some of the fungi around us. Learn about their importance, life cycles, identification, habitats, beauty and dangers.



On Saturday, we will search for fungi along the easy 1 to 2 mile trail that leads to the base of Table Mountain. Participants will then have the option of returning on their own or joining the ranger for a climb to the top of Table Mountain to enjoy the grand view of New Melones Lake. Meet at the corner of Shell Road and Rawhide Road at 10:00 a.m.



## Wildflowers of New Melones lake

**Presentation: Thursday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.**

**Activity: Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.**

More than just beautiful, wildflowers have unique traits and characteristics that make them different from the flora around them. Join Park Ranger Hilary in identifying some of the wildflowers that blanket the Mother Lode this time of year.



On Saturday, we will be identifying some of the many wildflowers that blanket the Mother Lode on a 2.5 mile hike of medium difficulty. There are a few inclines and descents, but mostly gentle rolling hills. Meet at the Glory Hole Entrance Station at 10:00 a.m. We will caravan down to the trailhead parking.

## Birds of New Melones Lake

**Presentation: Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.**

**Activity: Saturday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.**

Join Park Ranger Hilary in discovering the wonderful world of bird watching. Learn how to keep bird feeders, identify groups of species, flight patterns, calls and songs. Discover how important birds are to our existence.



On Saturday, we will search for bird species along the easy 1 to 2 mile trail that leads to the base of Table Mountain. Participants will then have the option of returning on their own or joining the ranger for a climb to the top of Table Mountain to enjoy the grand view of New Melones Lake. Meet at the corner of Shell Road and Rawhide Road at 10:00 a.m.

# Come Visit the New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum

The New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum is located at 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora, CA 95370. We are located off of Highway 49 midway between the historic Gold Rush towns of Sonora and Angels Camp, just south of the Stevenot Bridge that crosses the lake. The visitor center features maps and other visitor information, live fish, live snakes, and videos to watch. The museum features an exhibit of wildlife often seen around New Melones Lake, a geology exhibit, and historical displays featuring the history of the area from the time of the earliest Native Americans to today. There is something for everyone to enjoy! Don't forget to purchase your annual pass from one of our friendly visitor center staff. There is no fee to visit the visitor center and museum.

## **Phone:**

(209) 536-9543

## **Open Hours:**

10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**September 9, 2009 - May 30, 2010**

Wednesday-Sunday

**May 31, 2010 - September 8, 2010**

Open daily



# We are looking for volunteers!

Come join the team! There is always something new and exciting going on at New Melones Lake with great incentives for volunteers. No experience necessary. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## Interpretive Programs

- Assist with craft activities during Junior Ranger Programs
- Lead children in fun interpretive games
- Assist on ranger-led hikes.

## Oak Trees

- Water oak seedlings
- Monitor health of existing trees

## Visitor Center Staffing

- Greet visitors and provide information.
- Sell annual passes.

Contact the volunteer coordinator for more information or to sign up!

**Park Ranger Tracy Neal**  
(209) 536-9094 x215



**New Melones Lake Visitor Center and Museum**

6850 Studhorse Flat Road

Sonora, CA 95327

